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July 1, 1998

BY HAND

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

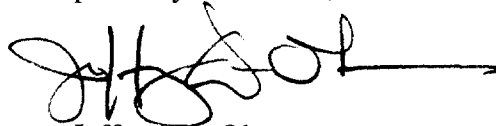
Re: Ex Parte File Nos. 48-SAT-P/LA-97, 89-SAT-AMEND, RM No. 9147 ✓

Dear Madam Secretary:

On June 30, 1998, the attached letter was hand-delivered to Chairman Kennard and the members of the Commission staff listed below.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey H. Olson
Attorney for
SkyBridge L.L.C.

Enclosure

cc: See attached list

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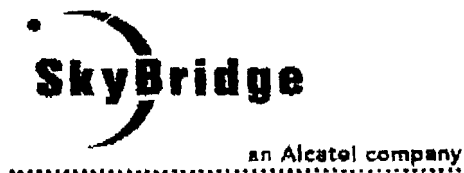
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Magalie Roman Salas

July 1, 1998

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June 30, 1998

The Hon. William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Last week, you spoke on the future of the communications revolution. In your speech, you issued a visionary challenge. You spoke of "bringing the best of the Information Age into every home in America." You identified the potential for "new horizons for entertainment, information, and communications services for all Americans." And you acknowledged the tremendous benefits in jobs and economic output to be gained from "e-commerce"—doing business over the Internet—from \$20 billion this year to \$350 billion four years from now.

But you were not only visionary. You were also realistic. You recognized that a huge obstacle must be overcome before that great vision can be made a reality. On the one hand, the Internet has "plenty of capacity to pump data all over the country very quickly." On the other hand, when the data "reaches that last mile, the copper phone line that runs into [the] house is a lot like [a] garden hose. It can't handle the amount . . . that needs to be pumped through to fill up [the] computer screen quickly."

In short, the vast majority of Americans are not yet seeing the potential benefits of the Internet in their homes.

Mr. Chairman, my company, SkyBridge, agrees with you wholeheartedly and applauds you for your vision. You were right on target in identifying the problem; but you mentioned only a part of the solution. Telephone companies and cable companies, you said, should provide broadband access to the home by replacing their old copper phone lines with lines that can transmit data digitally "at lightning speed."

Installing new high-speed digital lines, however, will take time, and these lines may never reach rural areas. It will take many years for the telephone and cable companies to bring all of the benefits of the Internet to all American homes. But there is another technology with great potential for high-speed, low-cost, local and world-wide communications: the satellite technology called SkyBridge.



an Alcatel company

My company -- at its core and by design -- is a "last mile" broadband access solution. Built around a constellation of low earth orbit satellites and gateway earth stations, SkyBridge will by 2001 provide the infrastructure for a full range of broadband services, including Internet access and high-speed data communications. It will serve local areas according to their needs and preferences and will complement local networks, with all switching and routing controlled and customized by the gateway stations. And SkyBridge will be inexpensive, because it uses a combination of state of the art technology for local access, and the existing terrestrial fiber network -- the "huge water mains" to which you referred -- for long-haul connections.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Chairman, SkyBridge offers competition -- another way, besides telephone and cable lines, to "bring consumers more services, better quality, and the lowest prices." We also offer the potential for universal service; from day one of our system operations, we will be able to provide the rancher in Montana with the same quality of high-speed Internet access, at the same price, as we will provide to the banker in Chicago.

With all of its advantages, SkyBridge is an integral part of any solution to the broadband problem. Mr. Chairman, in fulfilling your visionary goal of bringing the benefits of the Internet to all Americans, let SkyBridge help you.

Respectfully yours,

Pascale Sourisse
President and CEO